details of the projects are as under :

(Figures in crores of Rupees)

| | Name | Anticipated cost | Outlay | | Actual Expenditure | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 95-96 | 96-97 | 95-96 | 96-97 |
| 1. | Vasai Road-Vaitarna Third and Fourth Lines along with flyover with DC traction / (16.64 Kms.) | 46.16 | 7.18 | - | 7.18 | |
| 2. | Borivali-Vasai Road-Quadrupling of lines (17.65 kms). | 131.34 | 4.00 | 1.00 | 4.00 | |
| 3. | Diva-Panvel Doubling | 47.00 | 5.00 | 23.79 | 1.00 | |
| 4. | Diva-Vasai Road Doubling | 90.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | ** | |

As per decision taken during 1996-97 the quadrupling of Borivali-Virar will be undertaken in lieu of item 1 and 2 above under BOLT Scheme. So, only nominal outlay has been given for the combined scheme in 1996-97.

** Diva-Vasai Road project was cleared in July'96 by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. So, no expenditure was incurred during 1995-96. Work has just commenced in 20 Kms out of 42 Kms.

Actual expenditure at the end of 1996-97 is likely to be the same as per outlay provided for the project.

(c) The projects are being progressed with in the overall constraint of available resources.

(d) The projects are likely to be completed as under :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Borivali-Virar quadrupling | 2000 |
| 2. | Diva-Panvel doubling | 1997-98 |
| 3. | Diva-Vasai Road Doubling | 1998-99 |

**Status of Attendant of First Class Pass-holder**

1900. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attendant to the first class passholder is still termed as paid-servant even after a lapse of fity years of independence;

(b) if so, whether term of attendant is proposed to be changed as companion;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to allow companion of the pass-holder to travel with the pass-holder in the same class as no purpose is served by the attendant in course of travel in the other class; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). Serving/ Retired railway employees who are eligible for First Class Privilege Passes are permitted to take an attendant in Second Class who is exclusively employed on salary in the personal service of such such railway employees. There is no proposal to liberalise the existing facilities due to wide repercussions and financial implications.

**MRTPC Notice to MTNL**

1901. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MRTPC had issued a notice of enquiry to the MTNL for charing a service tax at the rate of 5 per cent on telephone bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the case;

(c) whether the Government propose to withhold the service tax from subscribers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Notice of enquiry was issued by MRTPC to MTNL on 17.9.96 in titled case R.S. Mann Vs. MTNL.

(b) In the aforesaid notice the commission has stated that MTNL has now started charging service tax @ 5% on the amount of bill without any quid-pro-quo. It is further stated that the trade practice of charging service tax without any quid-pro-quo has the effect of imposing unjustified costs/restrictions on the consumers and also amounts to manipulation of prices or conditions of delivery of flow of supplies in the market relating to provision of telephone services in a manner so as to impose on the consumers unjustified costs or